

Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 9, September 2006

September is...
**National
Preparedness
Month**
Get a Kit, Make a Plan,
Be Informed and
Get Involved

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Amateur Radio Awareness Day is September 16

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 1, 2006 — September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day.

For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur

Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

"More than 4000 ARRL 'Hello' campaign brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative," he said. To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long.

National Preparedness Month 2006 is a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year's goals are to increase public awareness

about the importance of family emergency preparedness and to urge individuals to be better prepared.

Be Ready!

"Every American has a personal responsibility to ensure that their family is prepared for the unexpected," said Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman.

"Through this effort, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition will encourage all Americans to be ready before emergencies happen."

Pitts says that according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), families should plan on being totally on their own for up to four days. "That's like being back in ancient times: no cell phone, no Internet, no 911," he said.

MARC to Elect Officers at Annual Picnic/Meeting

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will elect new officers at the annual picnic/meeting. The picnic meeting will be held at Union

Christian Church, 1267 East County Road 300 South, Franklin, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.835 repeater (151.4 PL).

All candidates are running unopposed this year. Meredith (JR) Osborne, KB9HSE, is

our candidate for President. JR is one of our Past Presidents and we are looking forward to another year with him at the helm. Dave Daily, KB9LOT is returning for another year as Vice-President. Carol Osborne, KC9CFK, will also repeat as Secretary after a two-year break. Brenda Halder, KC9EBL, is also a repeat coming back for a third year as Treasurer. Jay Chrisman, AA9YP will be filling the Repeater Trustee position. This is the only position that has a 3-year term.

Remaining with changes are Matt Payne, KB9UJE, who currently fills two positions, that of Repeater Trustee and Webmaster. He will be concentrating on the Webmaster role as we continue to expand our web site. Linda Harshbarger will take on the role of PIO, Public Information Officer, working with Jack Parker, Activities Director and Matt Payne, Webmaster. She will continue with the monthly newsletter, supper club flyer and class flyers.

The PIO goal will be to increase our public recognition through write-ups in local newspapers, added guests to our meetings and via publications such as the monthly newsletter. Education will also be a focal point as we put together our educational program without the help of Ernest Clark, KB9SKI, who recently

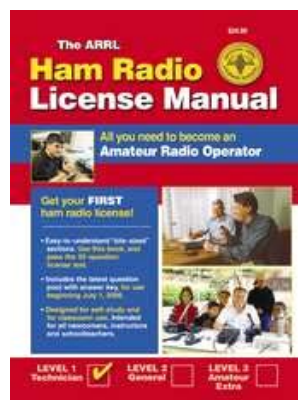
moved to Lafayette. Ernest has conducted our Technician classes for the last several years and will be missed.

Traditionally our technician classes are held during the early spring and it is hoped that we can continue with that time frame. So we will be looking for instructors, dates and a location for the next series of classes.

So bring a covered dish and join us at the picnic/meeting/elections on Saturday, September 16th. Provided will be soft drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments. Check out the website if you need directions to the church.

VEC Testing

VEC testing will be held at the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center beginning at 9:00 AM. Stop in, take your test, and then come to the picnic. Anyone successfully testing and receiving their Technician license is automatically a member of the club through the end of 2006.



Ham Radio Class

The Red Cross Disaster Radio Group will hold Technician level classes beginning Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

To register for classes, contact Jay at 317-203-3335 or via e-mail at jay@southwesternelec.com.

Officers

President:
Scott Coombs,
KC9EKR

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Treasurer:
Brenda Halder,
KC9EBL

Repeater Trustee:
Matt Payne,
KB9UJE

Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Preparing for Emergencies: A Checklist

Disasters can happen any time and without warning. Each family should create a family disaster plan in the event a disaster forces you to evacuate or to manage on your own without basic services such as water, gas, electricity or telephones. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, recommends that you have a three or four day supply of food, water and supplies for each member of your family.

As amateurs we are prepared with radios, antennas, spare parts, various meters, and emergency power so a lack of telephone service may not throw us for a loop. But have we taken the time to prepare the rest of our necessary supplies? A simple kit should include water (one gallon per day per person), one change of clothing and footwear per person, and a sleeping bag and blanket per person. Include a small first aid kit, the usual personal care products, some sanitation products and cash.

For some of us, packing our medications and an extra pair of glasses and a spare set of car keys is essential.

The American Red Cross recommends including some tools, a battery-powered radio, flashlight and batteries but again as amateurs we pretty much have these items already in our "go bag".

Non-perishable food and a non-electric can opener can come in handy unless you buy your food in resealable bags or with pop-top lids. Powdered milk, dried fruit, canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly, granola bars and ready-to-eat canned meats are generally easy to pack, tote and come in handy when out in the field providing emergency communications. Don't forget the comfort foods! Cookies, crackers, lollipops, instant coffee,

hot chocolate and tea bags also work well.

So what do you do with all this stuff once assembled? Store it in a convenient place at home where all members of the family have access. Tote bags, backpacks and small/medium duffles work well. Put together a smaller version and keep it in the trunk of your car. Make sure all items are in air tight plastic bags. Remember to rotate any stored food at least once every six months. Water should also be changed out every six months to ensure it stays fresh.

For many of us, arrangements must be made or supplies gathered for our pets. Make sure you can locate medications, medical records, leashes, harnesses, and carriers. Keep a current photo of your pet with your pet disaster kit in case you get separated. Don't forget items such as food, water, bowls and if you have a cat, cat litter. Don't forget the pets' favorite toy! If you can't take the pet with you make sure they are in the house, and have collars with up-to-date identification. Include a note with your name, telephone number and final destination nearby so that someone will know how to reach you. Always make sure to leave the pet plenty of food and water. Best bet for a pet is if you can take them with you.

This should get you started. If you have any great ideas on what to pack, how to pack, etc., don't forget to share this information at club meetings. Being prepared is always a good idea.

...KC9GCH

Recent VEC Results August 2006

Douglas W. Parton, KC9JIW, passed
code element
Robert A. Ziegler, Technician
Brian M. Zust, Technician, also passed the
General test

Congratulations!

WA9RDF
Repeater
**146.835/
146.235 MHz**
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558

Spark Gap

2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 16 MARC Meeting, Annual Picnic, Election of Officers**
Church Shelter House, Franklin, IN
- 23 Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational**
Greenwood, IN (Contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, for more info)
- 24 HARC Hamfest 2006**
Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN

OCTOBER 2006

- 8 Dad's Day Hamfest**
Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN
- 10 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**
Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN
- 21 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

NOVEMBER 2006

- 14 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**
Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN
- 18 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 18-19 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center, Fort Wayne, IN

DECEMBER 2006

- 12 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**
Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN
- 16 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.